REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 28, 2003. Claims 48, 51, 54 and 55 are pending in the application, of Claims 48 and 51 are independent. Favorable review and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 48, 51 and 54 to 57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,131,067 (Girerd) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,790,121 (Sklar). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

In one aspect of the invention, a communication apparatus receives position status information of an information generating terminal and updates position information of the information generating terminal in a database in accordance with the received position status information. The communication apparatus receives a request from an output terminal, searches the database for position information, and generates display information as geographic map information that is transmitted to the output terminal. The display information includes a map corresponding to the position information searched from the database and an icon to be displayed on the geographic map, where the icon represents the information generating terminal and a URL for accessing the information generating terminal, being linked at the position of the icon. The output terminal displays a geographic map with the icon representing the information generating terminal, and the output terminal accesses the information generating terminal in response to a designation of the icon on the geographic map. Thus, a user at the output terminal can access the information generating terminal and the position of the icon and the URL displayed on the

geographic map change based on the position status information of the information generating terminal.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 48 is a communication apparatus to output information of an information generating terminal to an output terminal via a network, comprising a communication device adapted to receive position status information of the information generating terminal, to update position information of the information generating terminal in a database in accordance with the received position status information, and to transmit geographic map information in accordance with the position information to an output terminal, a search device adapted to search position information in the database in accordance with a request by the output terminal, and a display information generating device adapted to generate display information as the geographic map information, the display information including a map corresponding to the position information searched from the database and an icon to be displayed on the geographic map, the icon representing the information generating terminal and a URL for accessing the information generating terminal being linked at the position of the icon, wherein, the communication device transmits the geographic map information to the output terminal in response to the request from the output terminal, and wherein the output terminal displays a geographic map with the icon representing the information generating terminal, and the output terminal accesses the information generating terminal in response to a designation of the icon on the geographic map.

Amended independent Claim 51 is a method claim that substantially corresponds to Claim 48.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 48 and 51. More particularly, the art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of generating display information as a geographic map information, the display information including a map corresponding to the position information searched from the database and an icon to be displayed on the geographic map, the icon representing the information generating terminal and a URL for accessing the information generating terminal being linked at the position of the icon, and the output terminal accessing the information generating terminal in response to a designation of the icon on the geographic map.

Girerd is seen to disclose that a client requests position information of a remote sensor from a server, whereby the server queries the remote sensor for the information, which is then passed on to the client for display. The position of the sensor may be displayed on a web browser, thereby allowing a user to identify the position of the sensor. (See column 2, lines 30 to 45.) A portion of a city map may be downloaded with the location of the sensor highlighted on the map so the user can identify the position of the sensor. (See column 5, line 64 to column 6, line 9.) Thus, Girerd merely obtains position information of a sensor by a server and displays the position of the sensor on a map of a client. However, Girerd is not seen to disclose that the sensor displayed on the map represents the information generating terminal and a URL for accessing the information generating terminal being linked at the position of the icon.

Moreover, Girerd is not seen to disclose anything with regard to being able to access the sensor by the output terminal in response to a designation of the icon on the geographic map. However, the Office Action alleges that Sklar teaches such a feature. As

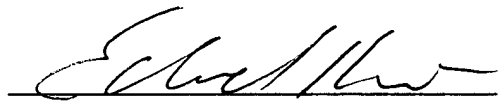
Applicant understands Sklar, a user can access a database of records by clicking on links of a map. Thus, a user can merely select links on a map to have records displayed, but such a feature is not seen to correspond to accessing an information generating terminal represented by an icon and a URL displayed on a geographic map, where the icon is generated and displayed as claimed.

Accordingly, amended independent Claims 48 and 51, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable over Girerd and Sklar.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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